

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A user interface for initiating a feature in a mobile communications unit, comprising:

5 a flexible cover having at least one contact surface, wherein a user engages said contact surface to initiate the feature in the mobile communications unit, and having at least one extension extending away from said flexible cover; and

a flexible sheet, wherein said flexible cover and said flexible
10 sheet are in a first position when undisturbed and a second position when being manipulated for incorporation into the mobile communications unit, wherein said flexible sheet at least partially directs said flexible cover to return to said first position after said flexible cover and said flexible sheet are manipulated into said second position.

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2. The user interface according to claim 1, wherein said extensions extending away from said flexible cover detachably engage at least one slot mounted on the mobile communications unit when said flexible cover is in said first position.

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3. The user interface according to claim 1, wherein said flexible sheet includes at least one extension extending away from said flexible sheet, said extensions of said flexible sheet corresponding to said extensions of said flexible cover.

4. The user interface according to claim 1, wherein said flexible cover is constructed of a material selected from the group consisting of rubber and plastic.

5 5. The user interface according to claim 1, wherein said flexible sheet is constructed of metal.

6. The user interface according to claim 1, further comprising at least one indicator, said indicator being disposed within and visible from said
10 contact surface.

7. The user interface according to claim 6, wherein said indicator informs the user of a status of a network connection.

15 8. The user interface according to claim 6, wherein said indicator informs the user of the receipt of an incoming communications signal.

9. The user interface according to claim 1, wherein the flexible cover includes a designation associated with a customer.

10. A method of assembling a mobile communications unit,
comprising the steps of:

producing a universal base component at an assembly facility;

5 shipping the universal base component to a separate facility, wherein
the separate facility contains a selection of user interfaces, wherein the user
interfaces are used to initiate a feature in the mobile communications unit and
wherein the selection of user interfaces includes user interfaces associated
with different customers;

10 selecting a user interface from the selection of user interfaces; and
at the separate facility, incorporating the selected user interface into
the universal base component.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the user interface
15 includes a flexible cover and a flexible sheet, wherein the flexible cover
includes at least one extension extending away from the flexible cover and
the flexible sheet includes at least one corresponding extension extending
away from the flexible sheet.

20 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said incorporating
step comprises the step of manipulating the user interface to permit the
extensions of the flexible cover and the extensions of the flexible sheet to
engage at least one slot positioned on the universal base component.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein said incorporating step further comprises the step of positioning the flexible sheet adjacent to the flexible cover, whereby the flexible sheet at least partially directs the flexible cover in a manner that permits the extensions of the flexible cover to
5 engage the slots.

14. The method according to claim 10, wherein each of the user interfaces includes a designation identifying the user interface as being associated with a customer.